

nite structure with an aluminium content of less than 0.3 % by weight. Preferred forms of the catalyst and of the process are described in the sub-claims.

- 5 *A further object*
~~Further subject~~ of the present invention is a process for the reduction of the aluminium content of a catalyst carrier which comprises mainly aluminium-containing lattice-layer silicates with a montmorillonite structure, wherein the catalyst carrier is
- 10 - impregnated with phosphoric acid
 - treated hydrothermally at a temperature of between 160 and 300 °C and ^a partial water vapour pressure of 4 to 80 bar absolute
 - washed subsequently with an acidic, basic or neutral solution at a temperature of between 20 and 100 °C,
- 15 and
 - ~~afterwards rinsed~~ ^{afterwards rinsed} with water until the washing water becomes neutral.

- 20 *Yet another object*
~~Furthermore subject~~ of the present invention is a process for the hydration of ^{C₃-or-C₄-olefins} ~~C₂-or-C₃-olefins~~ with water in the presence of a catalyst that comprises a catalyst carrier impregnated with acid according to ~~at least one~~ ^{the present invention} *E.P.*
- ~~of the claims 1 to 22.~~

- 25 *Description of the Preferred Embodiments* 2/11/05
 The terms "hydration" and "hydration reaction" refer, for the purposes of this invention, to the reaction of water with a carbon-carbon double bond.

- 30 The terms "dealuminating" and "dealuminated catalyst carrier", respectively, refer for the purposes of this invention to the process of reducing the aluminium content and a catalyst carrier with a reduced aluminium content.